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Allowable Subject Matter

1. Claims 1-11 and 15-22 are allowed.
2. The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance: The references of the Prior Art of Record fail to teach or suggest alone or in obvious combination all of the features of the applicants' invention as claimed in the independent claim 1. Specifically, the Prior Art does not teach the piezoelectric layer formed between regions where Pb and Pd are mixed together in interfacial portions wherein the regions have thickness of not larger than 3% of the thickness of the piezo layer in combination with the recited structural limitations of the claimed invention.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance".

Contact Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jaydi A. San Martin whose telephone number is 571-272-2018. The examiner can normally be reached on M-Th 9-7.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Walter Benson can be reached on 571-272-2227. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

/Jaydi SanMartin/
Primary Examiner
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October 26, 2009